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# FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF  
LAVINIA L. DOCK



## ORGANIZATION NOTES

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### THE AUSTRALASIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION

THE members of the Australasian Association now number four hundred and fourteen, and the treasury shows a good balance.

The council of the association is struggling with the same educational problems which we have at home; the case of the small hospital is an unsettled one there as well as here. The last report says "... The arrangements (for the teaching of nurses) in many of the smaller hospitals are unsatisfactory, and the teaching is wanting both in regularity and system. . . . The council has found it necessary to refuse to recognize a number of hospitals as training-schools, in some cases because the number of beds and the general nature of the cases admitted did not furnish sufficient material on which to train nurses, and in others because the hospital authorities were unable to convince the council that the training would be carried out either systematically or efficiently."

The "Report," after further discussion of this point, says: "The council strongly recommends that in hospitals which are not recognized training-schools, trained nurses, paid at fair salaries, should alone be employed."

So are our problems everywhere alike!

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### THE ENGLISH SOCIETY FOR REGISTRATION OF NURSES

THIS society is working quietly but faithfully to educate the public, and the League of St. John's House Nurses at a recent meeting endorsed its aims and work and agreed to send a yearly subscription to the society for the furtherance of the cause of registration.

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## LETTERS

MISS KRUYSSSE writes from Holland: "I am following with great interest all that is written in the JOURNAL of the curriculum in your training-schools, and it will interest you, I think, to compare notes and to hear something of the curriculum of the Wilhelmina Hospital. Our great change takes place in May. At that time we take in the new nurses, and in addition a certain number to relieve those who are going on vacation.

"Our holidays are from May to October. The nurses have three weeks. Nineteen nurses go at the same time. So in May we get nineteen nurses in addition to our usual number.

"This system is working very well. We are never short now, and the new nurses have the advantage of being accustomed to the work, when the lectures begin in November. They do not lose any time, as they follow the whole course of lectures and are certificated after completing their three years.

"Of course, in November we have few or no vacancies, as we have to

decrease our number again when the holidays are over; that means we need not appoint new nurses for those who are leaving.

"The nurses come on a month's trial, which is prolonged to two or three months if necessary. We take in women of every class and denomination, but they must be gentle, of good character, and well taught.

"During the first winter they get lectures in anatomy, physiology, and bandaging, first aid and ambulance work, and surgical nursing, and first course of hints on general nursing and nursing ethics. During the second year, medical nursing, fever nursing, lectures on different organs and their diseases, eyes, ears, throat, nose, and second course of hints on general nursing and nursing ethics. Third year, lectures on foods and hygiene, instruments, preparatory classes for examination.

"The lectures on anatomy, physiology, and surgery are given by the surgeon; the lectures on medical and fever nursing, foods, and hygiene by the medical superintendent; hints on general nursing and nursing ethics by the matron.

"Preparatory classes for examination are held by both physicians. The instructors are not paid. Practical nursing is taught altogether in the wards, besides hospital economy as much as possible.

"Probationers do not have any responsibility.

"The nurses have the opportunity to spend their fourth year in the lying-in and gynecological department, where lectures on the subject are given, and after completing the fourth year they can obtain a separate diploma for monthly nursing.

"A set of lectures on mental nursing is also given during the fourth winter to those nurses who have been working one year out of the three in the mental department, and who wish to get the certificate for mental nursing.

"The training runs as follows: Eight months male wards, surgical, medical, and children's ward; eight months female wards, surgical, medical, and children's ward; eight months fever training; twelve months mental nursing; total, thirty-six months, holidays included.

"After completion of this three years' course, examination and certificate for general nursing.

"Fourth year (not compulsory), lying-in and gynecological department. Paying patients are also received, which offers an excellent preparation for private work.

"After completion of this course, examination and certificate for monthly nursing and also for mental nursing.

"The nurses receive at first a salary of forty dollars; after one and a half years, eighty dollars. Certificated nurses, if suitable, receive one hundred dollars. Head nurses receive a salary of from one hundred and twenty to two hundred and forty dollars. Board and laundry free for everybody.

"Nurses and probationers have one whole day off and one free evening once a week alternately. They are allowed to sleep out. Certificated nurses are allowed to go out after supper from seven-thirty to ten-thirty P.M. Probationers have this permission once a week, if they ask leave. Nurses are on duty eleven hours per day."

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THE following extracts from a private letter from Mrs. Tsilka, Miss Stone's companion in captivity and a graduate of the Presbyterian Hospital of New York, give some details not mentioned in the magazine articles:

"Yes, we two women, Miss Stone and myself, and the wee *little* woman who

joined us later, went through fearful suffering while in bondage. I have wondered at the capacity of the human being for enduring misery. . . .

"As for nursing, I lost no chance, even among the brigands. The chief brigand fell one night and injured his ankle, so that he had to be carried. When I offered to give him all the help I could I never saw a brigand look so embarrassed and remorseful as did he. While I was douching the sprained ankle with hot and cold water, and especially when *massageing* it, he never looked once at me. In a week, with this treatment, he was able to walk a whole night with comfort. Though he never said 'thank you' to me (for that is not a brigand's way), I knew he was grateful, for he saved the life of my baby and me on more than one occasion. . . .

"Many of the brigands brought to me their wounded and pus fingers to treat and cure. I am sure that if they had been obliged to kill me they would have found it very hard work to do so, for they 'had learned to love me,' as a young fellow expressed himself. He was one for whom I treated four pus fingers. . . .

"KATERINA S. TSILKA."

[What a pretty little picture the above words show us, and what a fresh proof of the nurse's advantage in reaching the tender spot in the most hardened nature!]

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## ITEMS

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### THE UNIFORM OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL NURSING SERVICE

In the "Regulations" lately published we find the following requirements for uniforms, and very attractive do they sound:

#### MATRON-IN-CHIEF

Gray uniform, faced with scarlet, and braided; scarlet cape.

#### PRINCIPAL MATRONS AND MATRONS

*Annual*.—One gray serge dress, two gray alpaca dresses, with scarlet cuffs; six muslin caps, six turned-down collars, six pairs turned-back cuffs, two scarlet capes, one gray bonnet.

*Triennial*.—One summer cloak, gray, with scarlet collar; one winter cloak, gray, with scarlet collar.

#### SISTERS

*Annual*.—One gray serge dress, three gray washing dresses, with two scarlet bands, one inch wide, on the cuff; six muslin caps, six turned-down collars, six pairs turned-back cuffs, two scarlet capes, one gray bonnet, eight aprons.

*Triennial*.—One summer cloak, one winter cloak.

#### STAFF NURSES

*Annual*.—One gray serge dress, three gray washing dresses, six muslin caps, six collars, six pairs turned-back cuffs, two scarlet capes, one gray bonnet, eight aprons.

*Triennial*.—One summer cloak, one winter cloak.

Helmets, or white sailor hats, with plain, distinctive ribbon bands, may be worn when serving in hot climates or in the country. Detailed particulars will be furnished by the matron-in-chief on application.

In uniform, ornaments are not to be worn.

Regulations as to the pay and pensions of the Military Nursing Service are as follows:

"The pay of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service shall be as follows:

	Initial rate.		Annual increment.		Maximum.
	£	s.	£	s.	£
Matron-in-chief .....	250	0	10	0	300
Principal matron .....	150	0	5	0	180
Matron .....	70	0	5	0	120
Sister .....	37	10	2	10	50
Nurse .....	30	0	2	10	35

"A member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service may retire voluntarily on pension on attaining the age of fifty, and shall be compulsorily retired at the age of fifty-five.

"If pensioned on account of disability, one year of service in a tropical climate may count as two years towards pension.

"She shall be entitled to retire on pension after ten years' service if she is rendered unfit for hospital duty through disease or injury, certified by the regulated medical authority to have been caused by the service.

"She may at any time be required to retire on account of unfitness for the duties of her appointment, with such gratuity as she may be entitled to.

"The pension shall be calculated on the rate of pay at the time of retirement, and shall, after ten years' service, be thirty per cent. of such pay, with an additional two per cent. for each year of service in excess of ten up to a maximum of seventy per cent. of such pay.

"In any case of special devotion to duty a higher pension, not exceeding fifty pounds a year, may be granted.

"If disabled in the service, after five but under ten years' service, such rate of pension below that fixed above shall be granted as may be determined by our Secretary of State. If she has served for less than five years when disabled, she shall receive a gratuity, to be determined in like manner.

"A member of the Imperial Military Nursing Service retired owing to unfitness may, provided she has not been guilty of misconduct, be granted a gratuity of one month's pay for each year of service, if not otherwise entitled to a pension.

"In cases where a member of the Military Nursing Service is pensioned for a disability not permanently unfitting her for duty, the pension shall cease on the date when she again becomes fit for duty, unless there should then be no vacancy, in which case, should she be willing to continue her service, she may remain on pension for a period not exceeding one year, pending a vacancy.

"A member of the Military Nursing Service retiring without having previously obtained permission to do so shall forfeit all claim to pension or gratuity."

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MISS MOLLETT'S many friends, especially those who hold hospital positions, will greatly enjoy a characteristic and delightful little article over her name in the *British Journal of Nursing* for October 11, "Life's Little Worries: A Gossip," in which she reviews in life-like and gruesome array the various trials of a hospital matron. Easy for us to laugh who are no longer in hospitals. How far away and amusing they sound! But all hospital heads will shake in dismal sympathy and appreciation.